

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 /068 W  
-----095654 051118Z /10

R 041512Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2768  
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02258

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETRD, PEPR, CARICOM, TD  
SUBJECT: CARICOM MINISTERIAL IN KINGSTON  
REF: 1) STATE 181391; B) 77 PORT OF SPAIN 3699

1. REACTION OF GEORGE RAMPERSAD, ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WHO WAS A MEMBER OF GOTT DELEGATION TO KINGSTON MEETINGS, WAS THAT THINGS WENT VERY WELL ON THE SURFACE, BUT HE DOUBTS MUCH OF SUBSTANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HE NOTED THAT JAMAICA MADE MUCH OF ITS AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE J\$34 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS FROM BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BUT IT IS NOT MUCH IN PRACTICE, EVEN IF THAT ALLOCATION DOES NOT COVER OIL--AND JAMAICA "DOESN'T EVEN IMPORT OIL FROM TRINIDAD." IN ANY CASE, LICENSING SYSTEM IS VERY STRICT AND ITSELF TENDS TO HAMPER GOTT EXPORTS TO JAMAICA. RAMPERSAD COMMENTED THAT MANLEY "TALKS A GOOD GAME, BUT WHETHER HE PLAYS A GOOD GAME IS ANOTHER MATTER."

2. RAMPERSAD SAID "OFF THE RECORD" THAT HE SEES NO HOPE FOR A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. WHILE HE FEELS TRINI-  
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DAD AND TOBAGO NEEDS CARICOM FOR ITS LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, IT IS NOT GETTING THE ATTENTION HERE (I.E., FROM PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS) THAT IT NEEDS, AND RAMPERSAD COMMENTED THAT IF GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO WRITE CARICOM OFF, HE WISHED IT WOULD COME OUT AND SAY SO.

3. RAMPERSAD NOTED THAT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL "TIT FOR

TAT" COMMITTEE SET UP LAST FALL TO STUDY CARICOM (REF B) HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED, AND ALL COPIES OF THE FINAL REPORT ARE LANGUISHING ON THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT THE GOTT DID NOT SEND MINISTER CHAMBERS TO THE MEETING AS THE JAMAICANS HAD EXPECTED, THE SIZE OF THE DELEGATION ITSELF WAS FAR SMALLER THAN THEY USUALLY PUT TOGETHER FOR THESE MEETINGS.

4. RAMPERSAD WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS A POSSIBLE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR CARICOM, BUT HE SAID THIS IS A RUMOR WHICH WAS CIRCULATING, AND HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THE JOB. HE FEELS THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE MOVED OUT OF GEORGETOWN, BECAUSE THE ATMOSPHERE THERE IS RESTRICTIVE, BOTH IN ACTUAL WORK CONDITIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY. HE ALSO BELIEVES CARICOM NEEDS A STRONG SECRETARY GENERAL IF IT IS TO GET OUT OF ITS CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.

5. COMMENT: RAMPERSAD IS OBVIOUSLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CARICOM, AS MUCH BECAUSE OF SIGNALS HE IS GETTING FROM HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AS BECAUSE OF CURRENT TRADE DIFFICULTIES THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING. HE NOTED THAT IN THE LONGER RUN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS AIMED AT THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN MARKETS, NOT THE CARIBBEAN. O'MAHONY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, PEPR, TD, CARICOM, (RAMPERSAD, GEORGE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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